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'Secret' Birthday Party For Super-Secret CIA

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Washington

The super-secret Central Intelligence Agency held a private 20th birthday party yesterday, but the word seeped through from its massive secluded headquarters across the Potomac at Langley, Va.

President Johnson sent a letter praising the CIA as "the best in the world" in the highly competitive field of international intelligence, and praised their "commitment to the Democratic ideal."

Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey appeared in person at the ceremonies in the 499-seat CIA auditorium at which CIA director Richard Helms gave awards to employees who have served the agency for more than 10 years.

Mr. Johnson's letter recalled that the nation had "no broad-scale professional intelligence service worthy of

the name" before the CIA was formed.

"Since that time," the letter continued, "you have become a dedicated and disciplined core of professionals, with clearly defined responsibilities...."

"You give us information on which decisions affecting the course of history are made."

"You have built on a solid foundation in these past 20 years. America relies on your constant dedication to the truth — on your commitment to the democratic ideal. I believe our trust is well placed."

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